

WOMEN'S PUSH FOR
CARNEGIE LIBRARIES

SCARIEST BRIDGE
IN TEXAS

READER RECIPES
A HIT IN NEVADA

Texas Coop Power

FOR MEDINA EC MEMBERS

JANUARY 2021

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where the wild things are





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January 2021



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Captured!

Take memorable wildlife photos with preparation, research and sleuthing.

Story and photos by Russell A. Graves

14 Literary Fortunes

Women of the early 20th century wrangled Carnegie grants and libraries for their towns.

By Melissa Gaskill

ON THE COVER

A brown bear at Katmai National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

ABOVE

A cottontail near Childress, on the southern edge of the Panhandle.

Photos by Russell A. Graves

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By Suzanne Featherston

Flying Colors

ONE OF THE BLACK MARKS against wind turbines is the number of birds killed by the rotating blades. Black marks, it turns out, could help resolve the problem.

Scientists in Norway found that painting one of the three blades on a wind turbine black reduces avian deaths by 72%.

The paper produced by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research explains that painting one blade black is believed to create motion smear patterns that birds perceive as moving objects, enabling birds to take evasive action.

Of the more than 60,000 wind turbines in the U.S., Texas has some 15,000—the most of any state.



Tons of Tomatoes

If you love tomatoes, you have about a week left to enter our recipe contest that celebrates the fruit.

Tomatoes are a big deal in Jacksonville. A *big* deal. The East Texas city has hundreds of huge concrete tomatoes, some weighing 665 pounds, scattered around town as a declaration of its love for the juicy fruit that many people consider a vegetable.



UPLOADS OF CASH

Parents of K–12 students planned to spend a record \$789.49 per family for back-to-school supplies last fall. Purchases of laptops and computer accessories in anticipation of more online schooling because of the COVID-19 pandemic helped break the record set in 2019 by almost \$100.

There are 78 snake species in Texas.



We spotlighted rattlesnakes, one of the most common, in *A Snake To Love*, April 2020.



TCP Contests and More

[ON TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM](https://www.texascooppower.com)

\$500 RECIPE CONTEST

Tomatoes

FOCUS ON TEXAS PHOTOS

Historic Texas

WEB EXTRA

Learn more about the 30 cities in Texas selected for Carnegie libraries—some of which still exist.



Power of Our People

A Cupboard Never Bare

CHRISTINA KUPER grew up in Indiana, where she watched a neighbor she called Grandma Hiner, though they weren't related, regularly sharing food from her pantry with others.

"I think that's where giving was implanted into my heart," says Kuper, a member of Taylor Electric Cooperative. "Throughout my life I have always tried to give to others."

Thus began a lifetime of charity that included Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Girl Scouts food drives and baking for military troops away during the holidays. When a debilitating respiratory disease left Kuper homebound in Hawley, about 10 miles north of Abilene, she refocused her benevolence.

Kuper installed the Hawley Sharing Box, left, at the end of her driveway in 2017. Based on the Little Free Pantry program, itself inspired by the Little Free Library project, Kuper's sharing box makes food, toys, school supplies and toiletries available for anybody—and Kuper stresses *anybody*—driving past 225 12th St., near the edge of town.

Daily updates on Facebook tell what's available and what's needed, and Kuper says the box is stocked almost completely by community donations.

"Kindness is addictive and contagious," she says, "and it should be spread everywhere."

INFO ▶ facebook.com/hawleysharingbox

TCP POWER OF OUR PEOPLE To nominate a co-op member who is making a difference in your community, email details to people@texascooppower.com.

FINISH THIS SENTENCE LIFE WAS BETTER ...

TCP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town. Here are some of the responses to our November prompt: **I'm most thankful for ...**

The little bitty space where my pets let me sleep in my own bed.

**SUE CALDWELL
BANDERA EC
PIPE CREEK**

My health, friends and warm home tonight.

**MATTIE WOODFIN BORDERS
VIA FACEBOOK**

My beloved brother, Rob, who, 31 years ago in December, donated his bone marrow to me and saved my life.

**ANNE SWEET
PEDERNALES EC
GEORGETOWN**

To see more responses, read Currents online.



ERIC W. POHL

Farrier Finesse

I went to farrier school in 1981, not to become a professional farrier but because I owned nearly 50 head of horses [Why Horses Wear Shoes, October 2020]. Pleased to see more women taking up that profession as brute strength is not as important as understanding the horse you're shoeing.

Ken Wade
Central Texas EC
Fredericksburg



I have made these with vanilla wafers for as long as I can remember [Cookie Swap, Bourbon Balls, November 2020].

SHARON STOLL
VIA FACEBOOK



MEGAN MYERS

Bat Lodging

“What a great endeavor to improve the planet. Thank you, Mr. Bamberger.”

NANCY GREENHAW
CENTRAL TEXAS EC
FREDERICKSBURG

No Small Potatoes

J. David Bamberger is a hero in the Texas conservation world and has shown us all how being a good steward of the land can enable nature to thrive [Bat Lodging, November 2020]. Pam LeBlanc's coverage of his “chiroptorium” showed Bamberger's persistence and determination as well as his warm, down-home nature.

Yes, J. David, I agree: Your potatoes are, indeed, “terribly important!”

Elizabeth Bowerman
Comal County Conservation
Alliance
Pedernales EC
New Braunfels

I saw that cave soon after it was built. Love that beautiful ranch and the man who made this real.

Beverly Barnt
Via Facebook

Matagorda Connection

My great-grandfather was the assistant keeper there in the 1890s, leaving and then returning as keeper in the early 1900s until his death in 1913 [Matagorda Island Lighthouse, October 2020]. His sister, my great-great aunt, perished with her children at Indianola in the 1875 hurricane.

Bill Reeves
Pedernales EC
Georgetown

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

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Austin, TX 78701

Please include your electric co-op and town. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

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TWO MINUTES AFTER I start blowing a predator call, I see movement to the northeast of the cedar tree in which I am hiding. Out of nowhere a sleek coyote takes a step into a clearing where I'd hoped one might and glares in my direction. Everything I planned to make this moment happen materializes 20 yards away: A predator stands in the burnished orange bluestem in perfect afternoon light and remains motionless long enough for me to focus and squeeze the shutter. I capture two frames of 35 mm slide film, and then the animal disappears. Then I notice my heart is pounding.

In that instant I made my first truly memorable wildlife image. It was exhilarating. Even though the scene is three decades old, I can recall it clearly. It was a defining moment in my eventual career as a photographer.

But here's the truth: Initially I didn't know the image was that good. Those were the days before digital photography, when I still had to expose the entire roll of film, ship it to a distant photo lab and wait for the images to return. A couple of weeks passed before I was finally able to look through the cardboard-mounted slips of film and find the coyote. First I thought someone else's pictures had been mixed in with mine. I quickly realized that the slides were indeed my own. In the Northeast Texas wild, everything I'd learned about how to make an engaging wildlife photo clicked.

Since that day, my photographs have appeared on more than 500 magazine covers, and I now guide photo tours all over the world. Recently I took a group to photograph bears in Katmai National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

A lot has changed since that moment calling up a coyote in Fannin County. A few years after the coyote stepped in front of my lens, digital photography revolutionized how images are made and democratized the medium to the point that even the best equipment made is truly affordable.

Some things have not changed with time and technology. Wildlife is still wild, and the steps required to capture great wildlife images are the same.

LEFT A brown bear atop Brooks Falls in Katmai National Park and Preserve in Alaska anticipates a meal of a spawning salmon. ABOVE Camouflage helps photographers get closer to wildlife.



ABOVE A bobcat approaches near Dodd City in North Texas. BELOW A motion-sensor camera can capture shy animals, such as this badger in Montana.

TCP WEB EXTRA

Enter online to win a digital copy of *The Big Book of Wildlife and Nature Photography* by Russell A. Graves.

Here are proven techniques that can help ensure your wildlife images are engaging and dynamic.

◀ FOCUS ON THE EYES

You've heard the saying that the eyes are the windows to the soul. That trite phrase holds true for wildlife, too. When planning a photograph, pay close attention to the eyes. Many cameras now include an eye-tracking feature that can automatically detect an animal's eyes and ensure that the focus locks on accurately.

The reason the eyes are of utmost importance is simple: When you look at another person or an animal, you first notice the eyes. That's where you make a connection with the subject. If the animal's tail is out of focus, that's OK. Blow the focus on the eyes, and the image suffers.

▼ GET CLOSE

There's a popular misconception that wildlife photographers use giant lenses and stand hundreds of yards from their subjects to obtain quality photographs. Nope!

To get really impressive photographs of any animal, you must get close. For larger animals like deer, it is best to be within 50 yards. With smaller creatures like quail, try to get within a few feet.

It is possible to use extreme telephoto lenses to get optically closer, but the more air you shoot through, the less sharp your images will be. Since air is filled with particu-





A bighorn sheep in Montana grazes just a few feet away.

lates, subjects become optically softer as distance increases, so the objects or animals look hazy. It is a good practice in wildlife photography to get as close as you can.

You can achieve the goal of proximity in a number of ways. State and national parks are ideal locations because the animals are accustomed to seeing people and are not as likely to run when they see a photographer. When working in wilder locations, consider including a blind in your setup. Think like a hunter and use the same tools hunters use to get close to wildlife.

▲ LEARN ABOUT YOUR SUBJECT

One essential goal of wildlife photography is to control as many variables as possible. You can't control whether an animal will show up and walk into your line of sight, but you can learn your camera's features, the craft of photography and the basics of composition.

In addition, learn all you can about the species you wish to photograph. By becoming a student of creative photography and a student of wildlife, you'll be more likely to see a particular species.

If you want to photograph mule deer, understand what habitat they prefer and the most likely time to find them. By understanding everything possible about your subject, you will tip the odds in favor of finding your target species.



ABOVE A curious chipmunk in Colorado comes within inches of the camera.
RIGHT A crane wades among feeding ducks in New Mexico.

▲ THINK ABOUT COMPOSITION

Great photographs rely on strong composition. Composition is the arrangement of the elements in a photograph that are visually balanced and pleasing. Typically with wildlife, that means composing them vertically or horizontally and relying on the compositional rule called the rule of thirds. The rule of thirds is a basic guide for where the main interest points in an image should lie inside the frame—a third of the way into the frame vertically and horizontally. This rule discourages centering the subject in the frame.

► LIGHTING IS KEY

Another essential consideration for a good wildlife photograph is how it is lit. Natural light looks best during the earliest and latest hours of the day. When the sun is low on the horizon, shadows fall away from the subject and the colors cast by sunlight take on a warm glow. The sun's light is always harshest during the middle of the day. So it is important to be in the field during the beginning and end of the day. Use the middle of the day to review the pictures you shot in the morning or scout for afternoon opportunities. Not only is the light better in early morning and late afternoon, but that's also when wildlife is most active.

What if the weather is overcast? Overcast days are great because the soft, nondirectional light extends your shooting day. I actually prefer to photograph on overcast days.



DON'T OVERTHINK IT

Don't complicate the process. Photography requires the mastery of a few fundamentals and then doing the same thing over and over so that results become predictable. Today's digital cameras are capable of performing many functions, but the truth is, a thorough understanding of aperture, shutter speed and sensor sensitivity will make more memorable photos.

Wildlife photography is comparable to golf. Golfers play the game knowing they'll never be perfect. Top photographers take the same approach. They pursue the perfect shot, and that addictive pursuit keeps them heading afield. ■

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Rating of A+



LITERARY = FORTUNES

Women of the early 20th century wrangled Carnegie grants and libraries for their towns

BY MELISSA GASKILL

VISITORS TO BRYAN IN 1902 walked unpaved streets and bought drinks at one of a dozen saloons. Many carried guns, and it was possible to witness a public hanging on the courthouse lawn. Local women sought to correct the situation and founded the Mutual Improvement Club.

“The ladies of the club were upset with the saloon-town atmosphere and wanted to bring in some culture and learning,” says Rachael C. Altman, manager of Bryan’s Carnegie History Center, housed in the town’s historic library.

Club member Lillie Wilson’s brother-in-law, Thomas W. Stewart, had been introduced to Andrew Carnegie. The Pennsylvania steel magnate was donating money to build libraries, and club leaders urged Wilson to contact Carnegie through her connection. “They were very persistent,” Altman says. Carnegie gave them a grant, and the Bryan Carnegie Library opened in December 1903.

A total of 2,509 Carnegie libraries were built between

1883 and 1929, including about 1,700 in the United States—32 of them in Texas. Many were funded through the efforts of women. Twenty of the original 32 buildings have been lost to demolition or fire, and eight of those surviving 12 remain in use, though not as libraries. Just four original Carnegie Libraries remain open in Texas—in Stamford, Ballinger, Franklin and Jefferson.

Carnegie sold his steel company to J.P. Morgan in 1901 for almost \$500 million, making him the world’s richest man. But “the man who dies rich dies in disgrace,” he said as he gave away \$350 million. Estimates suggest \$60 million went specifically toward libraries because Carnegie believed a free library was the best gift he could give a community. The keystones of the library program required that the facilities be public and free, and Carnegie required recipient cities to invest at least 10% of the grant annually to fund the libraries.

The northeast Texas town of Pittsburg had fewer than 1,500 inhabitants when it received the first Carnegie grant in the state in 1898, using it to build a small library and reading room. It burned down in 1939.



CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE The 1905 Greek Revival-style Carnegie library in Cleburne is today home to the Layland Museum. Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie. A postcard of the Jefferson Carnegie Library.

TCP WEB EXTRA See a map of Texas' Carnegie libraries and a slideshow of vintage postcards.



The Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio public library associations and the Woman's Club of Houston received grants around the turn of the century. The El Paso Public Library Association received one in 1904. And Clarksville, Waco, Belton, Tyler, Gainesville and Sherman received grants, all thanks to applications from local women's clubs.

Cleburne, south of Fort Worth and now home to a United Cooperative Services office, also built a Carnegie Library thanks to persistent women, in 1905. "A determined committee of ladies from the local women's club decided that the young town needed to become civilized and, we are told, traveled to New York to visit Carnegie's office without an appointment," says Stephanie Montero, manager of the Layland Museum now housed in the building. "He offered them \$10,000, but the committee felt that wasn't enough." Carnegie doubled his offer.

The Greek Revival-style building served as Cleburne's library until 1978, when it became part of the museum. The front entrance and main room feature Ionic columns with ornamental necking, and plaster details decorate interior and exterior walls.

In Northeast Texas, the Jefferson Library Association tried several fundraising strategies before applying successfully for a Carnegie grant. The Jefferson Carnegie Library was built in 1907 and was restored a century later.

The Classical Revival brick-and-limestone Carnegie Library in Stamford, north of Abilene, where Big Country EC has an office, features massive Ionic columns and corner pilasters. It hosted high school dances and, during World War II, games and socializing for airmen training nearby.

In Ballinger, south of Abilene, a Carnegie library built in 1911 is on the Texas Forts Trail as well as listed on the National Register of Historic Places and recognized as a State Antiquities Landmark and a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. The building has continuously served as a library but needed extensive renovations by 1976. "It was in such bad shape the city had already bought another place to build a library then decided to save this one," says library director Carolyn Kraatz.

The Franklin Carnegie Library, north of Bryan, completed in 1914, served as a library through 1918 and then housed school classrooms and public activities until 1984. The building was restored and reopened as a library in May 2009. It originally came into being thanks to then-mayor R.M. Cole, who applied to Carnegie for funds in 1913.

Bryan's library building, designed by a professor at Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Texas A&M University), today houses the Carnegie History Center. It served as a library until 1969 and then was used for city offices, says Altman. Matching handcarved pine stairways, tongue-and-groove pine flooring on the first floor and a decorative pressed metal ceiling all are original. Its restoration in 1999 took place with the help of the Women's Club, a modern incarnation of the Mutual Improvement Club.

Upstairs, the Bryan library hosted Red Cross gatherings during both world wars. The second floor now houses a genealogy research collection, which is free to the public along with access to online search services.

With so much of what people do being dependent on technology today, access to that technology is a crucial service provided by libraries, especially in small towns, says Karin Gerstenhaber of the Tocker Foundation, a nonprofit created in 1964 to support rural libraries in Texas.

"Carnegie felt that building libraries gave people opportunities to advance themselves," she adds. "The libraries provided free access to information, and those buildings were used for so many different purposes that brought people together. They filled a real need." ■

Discovered! Unopened Bag of 138-Year-Old Morgan Silver Dollars

Unopened for
138 Years!

Coin experts amazed by “Incredible Opportunity”

The Morgan Silver Dollar is the most popular and iconic vintage U.S. coin. They were the Silver Dollars of the Wild West, going on countless untold adventures in dusty saddlebags across the nation. Finding a secret hoard of Morgans doesn't happen often—and when it does, it's a *big deal*.

How big? Here's numismatist, author and consultant to the Smithsonian® Jeff Garrett:

“It's very rare to find large quantities of Morgan Silver Dollars, especially in bags that have been sealed... to find several thousand Morgan Silver Dollars that are from the U.S. Treasury Hoards, still unopened, is really an incredible opportunity.”

—Jeff Garrett

But where did this unique hoard come from? Read on...

Morgans from the New Orleans Mint

In 1859, Nevada's Comstock Lode was discovered, and soon its rich silver ore made its way across the nation, including to the fabled New Orleans Mint, the only U.S. Mint branch to have served under the U.S. government, the State of Louisiana and the Confederacy. In 1882, some of that silver was struck into Morgan Silver Dollars, each featuring the iconic “O” mint mark of the New Orleans Mint. Employees then placed the freshly struck coins into canvas bags...

The U.S. Treasury Hoard

Fast-forward nearly 80 years. In the 1960s, the U.S. government opened its vaults and revealed a massive store of Morgan Silver Dollars—including *full, unopened bags* of “fresh” 1882-O Morgan Silver Dollars. A number of bags were secured by a child of the Great Depression—a southern gentleman whose upbringing showed him the value of hard assets like silver. He stashed the unopened bags of “fresh” Morgans away, and there they stayed...

The Great Southern Treasury Hoard

That is, until *another* 50 years later, when the man's family finally decided to sell the coins—still in their unopened bags—which we secured, bag and all! We submitted the coins to respected



Actual size is 38.1 mm

- ✓ Historic Morgan Silver Dollars
- ✓ Minted in New Orleans
- ✓ Struck and bagged in 1882
- ✓ Unopened for 138 years
- ✓ 26.73 grams of 90% fine silver
- ✓ Hefty 38.1 mm diameter
- ✓ Certified Brilliant Uncirculated by NGC
- ✓ Certified “Great Southern Treasury Hoard” pedigree
- ✓ Limit five coins per household

third-party grading service Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), and they agreed to honor the southern gentleman by giving the coins the pedigree of the “Great Southern Treasury Hoard.”

These gorgeous 1882-O Morgans are as bright and new as the day they were struck and bagged 138 years ago. Coins are graded on a 70-point scale, with those graded at least Mint State-60 (MS60) often referred to as “Brilliant Uncirculated” or BU. Of all 1882-O Morgans struck, *LESS THAN 1% have earned a Mint State grade*. This makes these unopened bags of 1882-O Morgans extremely rare, certified as being in BU condition—nearly unheard of for coins 138 years old.

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MESSAGE
FROM CEO

MARK
ROLLANS

\$1.9 Million in Capital Credits Returned to Members

Members saw credit on their December bill

CAPITAL CREDITS are an important part of the cooperative difference.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Medina Electric Cooperative allocates any margins to members and retires them as the financial position of the cooperative allows. At their November meeting, the board reviewed the cooperative financials to determine what money needs to be reinvested in the system and made a decision to approve the retirement of \$1.9 million in capital credits this year.

For current members, these were issued as a credit on December bills. If you look at the back of your December bill, where charges are broken down, you will see a line item that shows your capital credits refund. Members who connected service with the cooperative within the last year may not have a bill credit, but they can look forward to one in future years.

For former members who are due a refund, credits were mailed as checks. That is one reason it is important to keep your mailing address updated with the cooperative if you move out of Medina EC's service area.

Since Medina EC was formed in 1938, more than \$33.9 million in capital credits have been returned to members.

To learn more about capital credits and how they are allocated to members' accounts and eventually retired, visit MedinaEC.org/CapitalCredits. Sometimes, capital credit checks remain uncashed and unclaimed. To check if you or anyone you know has unclaimed capital credits with the cooperative, search by last name on the MedinaEC.org/CapitalCredits page.

There really is a difference in the cooperative business model: You get reliable, affordable electricity—and money back in the form of capital credits.

Sincerely,
Mark Rollans

MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT WITH THE SMARTHUB APP

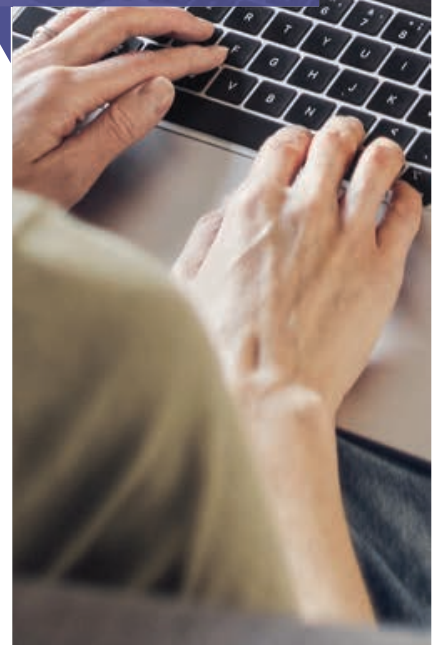
Pay your bill and report outages with the click of a button - all from your phone, laptop or tablet.



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GET IT ON
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CONTACT US

Toll-Free 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532)

Email Info@MedinaEC.org

Web MedinaEC.org - Chat Feature Available

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Voting District 1

Larry Huesser, (830) 363-7651

Wayne W. Scholtz, (830) 426-1328

Ken Weynand, (830) 426-0762

Voting District 2

Jimmie Raines, (830) 591-8437

Chris Surlis, (830) 965-5538

Kenneth White, (830) 232-6541

Voting District 3

Annette Sorrells, (361) 231-0173

J. L. Gonzalez, (956) 286-1863

Rodolfo H. Rodriguez, (210) 846-1092

CEO

Mark Rollans, 1-866-MEC-ELEC, ext. 1045

Medina EC Is Awarding Twenty \$1,000 Scholarships

EACH YEAR MEDINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE offers scholarships to students pursuing higher education.

This year, the cooperative is offering four scholarships for adults pursuing higher education and 16 for high school seniors. Applications must be completed online and submitted by 11:59 p.m. March 5.*

Eligible applications will be entered in a drawing and scholarship winners will be selected at random at the April board meeting.

For more information, visit MedinaEC.org/Scholarships or contact us at 1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532) or Scholarship@MedinaEC.org.

**Technical support will not be available outside of normal business hours. Encountering technical issues turning in the application on the last day will not be grounds for an extension.*

MedinaEC.org/Scholarships

Outage? Call us.

TOLL-FREE

1-866-MEC-ELEC (632-3532)

Option 2: Report an outage

Option 3: Pay bill, get account balance

Option 5: Speak to a representative

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Bruni 1300 FM 2050 N., Bruni 78344

Dilley 1718 W. FM 117, Dilley 78017

Hondo 237 Hwy. 173 N., Hondo 78861

Rio Grande City 601 N. FM 3167,
Rio Grande City 78582

Uvalde 2604 Hwy. 90 E., Uvalde 78801

Corporate Office 2308 18th St., Hondo 78861

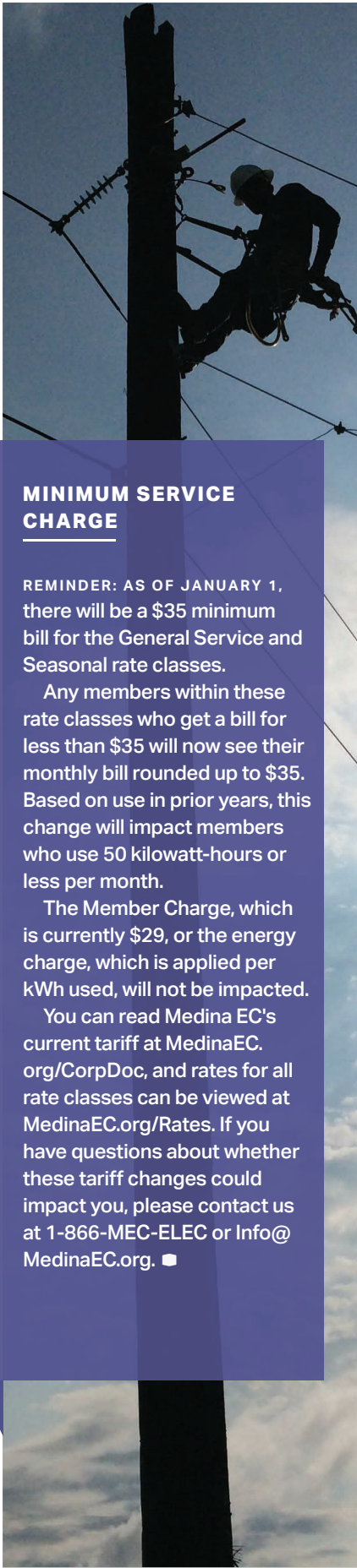
VISIT US ONLINE

MedinaEC.org



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Informacion sobre todos los programas y servicios que ofrece Medina Electric Cooperative estan disponibles en Espal al llamarnos al 1-866-MEC-ELEC o visitando una de nuestras oficinas.



MINIMUM SERVICE CHARGE

REMINDER: AS OF JANUARY 1, there will be a \$35 minimum bill for the General Service and Seasonal rate classes.

Any members within these rate classes who get a bill for less than \$35 will now see their monthly bill rounded up to \$35. Based on use in prior years, this change will impact members who use 50 kilowatt-hours or less per month.

The Member Charge, which is currently \$29, or the energy charge, which is applied per kWh used, will not be impacted.

You can read Medina EC's current tariff at MedinaEC.org/CorpDoc, and rates for all rate classes can be viewed at MedinaEC.org/Rates. If you have questions about whether these tariff changes could impact you, please contact us at 1-866-MEC-ELEC or Info@MedinaEC.org. ■

Community Empowerment Grants Available

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Up to \$5,500 will be awarded in 2021.
Application deadline: April 1, 11:59 p.m.*
Emphasis will be placed on projects that:

- >> Encourage economic diversity.
- >> Contribute to community health and development.
- >> Improve the quality or quantity of services essential for the development of viable communities.

**Technical support will not be available outside of normal business hours. Encountering technical issues turning in the application on the last day will not be grounds for an extension.*

COUNTIES WHERE GRANTS CAN BE AWARDED

Atascosa	Frio	Medina	Zapata
Brooks	Jim Hogg	Real	Zavala
Dimmit	Kinney	Starr	
Duval	La Salle	Uvalde	
Edwards	McMullen	Webb	

LAST YEAR'S RECIPIENTS

- Boys and Girls Club of Laredo, Laredo**
\$1,250 to replace basketball rims and backboards in the three club gyms.
- Dilley Public Library, Dilley**
\$1,250 to purchase STEM kits to help teach robotics, coding and programming to the community.
- El Progreso Library, Uvalde**
\$1,250 to purchase a professional laminator to be used in their Business Service Program to be used by small businesses, teachers, students and community members.
- Lil Lady Mavs, Pearsall**
\$500 to help organization pay for Showcase Softball Tournament.
- St. Louis Catholic School, Castroville**
\$1,250 to help purchase and install a filtered water bottle filling station for the school.



View eligibility information
and apply online at
MedinaEC.org/Grant.

Operation Round Up Gives Back During the Holidays

AT MEDINA ELECTRIC, we know how special the holiday season is for all our members. The cooperative also knows that many in our communities may be struggling with poor health or unfortunate circumstances during this important season.

Our Operation Round Up participants did their part to help community members, rounding their bills up to make donations to those in need. Because of their generosity, ORU was able to offer both general donations and Operation Grocery Give gift cards. Donation applications are reviewed every quarter by the ORU committee, and past donations have gone to help families battling cancer, those who have lost their homes in fires, children needing therapy and more. Operation Grocery Give is a special program offered during the holiday season that allows families to apply for a \$150 H-E-B gift card to assist with buying their holiday meals.

In December, Medina EC's ORU committee awarded applicants \$7,470, including \$3,600 in the form of \$150 H-E-B gift cards.

General Donation Recipients

Capri Hinojosa and Brandon Oliphant, Uvalde – \$620 to help pay for dental surgery for their 4-year-old son Kaiden that will involve eight of his teeth.

Priscilla Mejia and Adrian Rosas, Hondo – \$2,500 to help with the cost of an upcoming surgery for their 7-year-old son, Joaquin. This will be Joaquin's seventh surgery.

Jo Francis and Bailey Massey, Uvalde – \$750 to assist in paying for their son Bailey's equine therapy at Dream Walker Equine Therapy Center in Uvalde. The therapy helps him with his upper body strength and overall morale.



Kaiden Oliphant, one of the recipients of the latest donations.

Grocery Give Recipients

Ann Marie and Oscar Torres, Devine
Capri Hinojosa and Brandon Oliphant, Uvalde

Carla Brown, Dilley
Carlos and Yolanda Herrera, Devine
Cindy Balderrama, Devine
Deidra and Jeremy Dawley, Natalia
Eleanor Yanez, Devine

Elizabeth Castro and Anthony Rodriguez, Laredo

Erika and Benny Cisneros, Devine
Felix and Martha Hernandez, Devine
Heather and Eric Gilliland, Moore
Irma and Silberio Casas, Natalia
Jose and Mary Ann Rodriguez, Devine
Jose and Michelle Gomez, Hondo
Linda Searson, Castroville
Mary E. Villar, Castroville
Michelle Rodriguez, D'Hanis
Miranda Benetti, Uvalde
Paula and Simon Davila, Devine
Rafaela Cantu, Rio Grande City
Ramon Valles, Hondo
Ruth and Emmanuel Lozano, Devine
Shawna and Joseph Mason, Devine
Stacy Urrutia, Hondo



Operation Round Up is always accepting applications to help those in need.

Learn more and submit an application at MedinaEC.org/ORU. The next application deadline is February 5.



Battle Winter Energy Bill Woes

WE'RE MIDWAY THROUGH WINTER.

Colder weather generally means homes use more energy to keep warm, even if the setting on the thermostat has not changed.

When you think about it, it makes sense. Your home's heater has to work harder to keep it 68 degrees, the winter setting recommended by the U.S. Department of Energy, when it is 30 degrees outside than it does when it is 58 degrees outside. The larger the difference between the outside temperature and the desired temperature inside your home, the more electricity it is going to take to maintain the internal temperature.

Luckily, there are easy ways to save.

- Install—and program—a programmable thermostat so that you won't waste energy and money heating your home when you're away.
- Turn off lights when they are not needed. Replace incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75% less energy.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater. The DOE recommends the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
- Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep cold, drafty air out. Wash clothes in cold water.

All of these are little things, but you will find that the little things add up.

Combine these tips with your free SmartHub tool, available at MedinaEC.org or as an app, and watch the savings add up. SmartHub allows you to see daily electric use, so you will be able to tell which changes make the biggest difference for your family and your wallet.

Tips to avoid high winter bills:
MedinaEC.org/Cold

Co-op Connections Corner: Meat Markets

INTRODUCING MEDINA EC'S CO-OP CONNECTIONS CORNER! Every month, Medina EC will spotlight local businesses in our service area that participate in the Co-op Connections program.

As you consider stocking up your freezer for the new year, here are two meat processors who are part of the program:

La Coste Meat Market—La Coste

(830) 762-3231

LaCosteMeatMarket.com

10% off counter sales (doesn't include custom processing)

R & R Alsatian Sausage & Products, LLC—Castroville

(830) 931-2430

10% discount on retail purchases; 5% discount on processing



Learn more about Medina EC's Co-op Connections program and all the benefits at MedinaEC.org/Connections or on the app.

OWN A SMALL BUSINESS? WANT FREE PROMOTION?

Join the Co-op Connections program! Business partners are featured in an issue of *Texas Co-op Power*, listed on the Co-op Connections website, featured on Medina EC's social media pages and more.

Email MyCoop@MedinaEC.org to sign up for the program.

Upcoming Nominating Meetings

Any members interested in running for one of the three board positions up for election in the fall should plan to attend the nominating meeting for their voting district*. If you are not able to attend your nominating meeting or prefer not to attend an in-person meeting, you can also be placed on the ballot through the petition process. You can download a petition at MedinaEC.org/Nominee. The board of directors represents the interests of members and governs the cooperative.

At this time, all meetings will be in person. The cooperative will follow any directives in place at the time of the meeting, including maintaining social distance and wearing masks if required.

Learn more and download a petition at
MedinaEC.org/Nominee.

**If you have meters in multiple voting districts, you may choose one meeting to attend in any of those voting districts. If you are unsure which voting district your meters are in, visit MedinaEC.org/NomMtg or contact our office.*

Please note these dates and the corresponding locations are different than what was printed in the December Texas Co-op Power.

Voting District 1 Meeting

Medina County

Tuesday, February 23, 6 p.m.
**Medina EC General Office, 2308
18th St., Hondo**

Voting District 2 Meeting

Edwards, Real, Kinney, Uvalde, Zavala, Frio
and Atascosa counties

Monday, February 22, 6 p.m.
**Willie de Leon Civic Center Cactus
Room, 300 E. Main St., Uvalde**

Voting District 3 Meeting

Dimmit, La Salle, McMullen, Webb,
Duval, Zapata, Jim Hogg, Brooks and
Starr counties

Wednesday, February 24, 6 p.m.
**Medina EC Office, 601 N. FM
3167, Rio Grande City**

Bylaws Excerpt: Article 4—Board of Directors

In compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture, in reference to assurance of nondiscrimination among beneficiaries of Rural Utilities Service programs, the following excerpt from the Medina EC bylaws pertaining to nomination and election procedures for the election of board members are published below. Complete copies of the bylaws are available at all Medina EC offices and at MedinaEC.org/CorpDoc.

Section 4.1 - Director Districts. Based upon geographic, population, membership, or other equitable considerations determined by the Board, the Board shall divide the area in which the Cooperative Provides Cooperative Service ("Cooperative Service Area") into three (3) districts that equitably represent the Members ("Director Districts"). Each Director District shall be represented by three (3) directors. The Director Districts are described as follows: District No. 1 shall consist of the County of Medina, Texas; District No. 2 shall consist of the counties of Uvalde, Zavala, Frio, Real, Edwards, Kinney and Atascosa, Texas; and District No. 3 shall consist of the counties of LaSalle, Webb, Duval, McMullen, Dimmit, Jim Hogg, Zapata, Starr and Brooks, Texas.

Every year ending with a 5 or a 0, the Board shall, not less than ninety (90) days prior to July, review the Director Districts. If the Board determines that the boundaries or number of Director Districts should be altered, or that one (1) or more Director Districts or at-large directorships should be established, or that the number of district directors should be increased or reduced, so as to correct any substantially inequitable factors regarding representation, based on location of the membership as indicated by the cooperative records, the number or geographic location of districts or the number of directors, then the Board shall amend these Bylaws accordingly and may, after such amendments become effective, appoint any additional directors provided for by such amendments, and may fix their respective initial terms, not to exceed three (3) years. No such amendment shall become effective so as to expand a director's term beyond the time it would otherwise expire or, unless he consents thereto in writing, to cause the vacancy of any director's office prior to the time his term would otherwise expire. The Board shall cause all such

amendments and the names, addresses and initial terms of any newly appointed additional directors to be noticed in writing to the members not less than ten (10) days prior to July 1.

Section 4.2 - Board. The Cooperative shall have a Board that equitably represents the Members and is composed of nine (9) Members or individuals authorized by Entity Members that are:

1) Reside and Use a Cooperative Service at a Location within a Director District; 2) nominated by the Members who are Using a Cooperative Service at a Location within the same Director District; and 3) elected by the Total Membership.

A Director may only be nominated from one Director District and that Director District being the district in which the Director is qualified to serve. Refer to Section 4.3 Director Qualifications.

The Cooperative shall endeavor to maintain at least one (1) Member or individual authorized by an Entity Member who has, through education and experience as a public accountant or auditor or a principal financial officer, comptroller, or principal accounting officer of an Entity, or from a position involving the performance of similar functions gained:

1) an understanding of generally accepted accounting principles and financial statements; 2) experience in the preparation or auditing of financial statements of generally comparable Entities and the application of such principles in connection with the accounting for estimates, accruals, and reserves; 3) experience with internal accounting controls; 4) an understanding of audit committee functions; ("Financial Expert").

The Board may not be composed of more than three (3) individuals authorized by Entity Members. An Entity

Member may not authorize more than one (1) Director.

Except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation, the business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by its Board of Directors, as follows:

1) Cooperative powers must be exercised by the Board, or under the Board's authority; 2) Cooperative affairs must be managed under the Board's direction; and 3) The Board shall reasonably administer and enforce these Bylaws or shall ensure that these Bylaws are reasonably administered and enforced.

To the extent the Governing Documents authorize a Person to exercise a power that the Board would otherwise exercise, the Person exercising the power has, and is subject to, the same duties, responsibilities, and standards of care of the Board.

Section 4.3 - Director Qualifications. A Director or Director Candidate must comply with this Bylaw.

The "Nomination Date" is the date, approved by the Board, upon which the District Nominating Meeting for each Director District will held.

A) General Director Qualifications. To become or remain a Director, a Person must comply with the following general qualifications ("General Director Qualifications"):

1) be an individual not less than 18 years old and a citizen of the United States;

2) have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts;

3) while a Director, and during the five (5) years immediately before the Nomination Date, not:

a) be convicted of a felony or a crime of theft involving moral turpitude; or b) plead guilty to a felony or a crime of theft involving moral turpitude; c) have been determined to be of unsound mind, or incompetent to handle his or her own affairs by a court of law;

4) except as otherwise provided by the Board for good

Continued: Bylaws Excerpt: Article 4—Board of Directors

cause, receive a Credentialed Cooperative Director designation, Director's Certificate, or similar Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association within one (1) year of becoming a Director;

5) except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, attend (in person or via web or teleconference) at least nine (9) Board Meetings during each twelve (12) month period; and

6) be able to read, write and speak the English language.

B) Membership Related Director Qualifications. To become or remain a Director, an individual must comply with the following membership qualifications ("Membership Director Qualifications"):

1) while a Director and during the five (5) years immediately before the Nomination Date:

a) be an unsuspended Member;

b) be a Member in good standing of the Cooperative.

In good standing is defined as a Member that has paid all bills to the Cooperative for which service he/she is legally responsible or liable without having been issued more than three (3) termination notices or issued a disconnect order. Verification criteria are:

i. for preceding months one through thirteen (1-13), payment codes on the members account will be used, where a termination notice is indicated by a code "DQ1" and a disconnect order is indicated by a code "CUT".

ii. for preceding months fourteen through twenty-four (14-24), members payment history will be used, where a termination notice was issued if payment was received nineteen (19) or more days after billing date, and a disconnect order was issued if payment was received twenty-nine (29) or more days after billing date.

c) Maintain Residency and Use a Cooperative Service at, a Location within the Director District from which the Director is nominated or elected; and

i. A Director or Nominee may declare a Residence by executing a Declaration Form, by the Nomination Date.

ii. The residence must be either the location where the Member claims the homestead property tax exemption, or the address indicated on a current valid driver's license.

2) while a Director:

a) be a Member;

b) be authorized by an Entity Member that, while a Director and during the one (1) year immediately before the Nomination Date, is unsuspended, and maintains Residency at a Location within the Director District from which the Director is nominated or elected and within the Director District where the Entity is using a Cooperative service;

3) be designated or appointed by the Board.

C) Conflict of Interest Director Qualifications. To become or remain a Director, an individual must comply with the following conflict of interest qualifications ("Conflict of Interest Director Qualifications"):

1) annually complete and sign a conflict of interest certification and disclosure form approved by the Board including disclosure of all accounts for which he or she is legally responsible or liable;

2) while a Director,

a) not be a Close Relative of a Cooperative employee;

b) not hold an elected position of a body politic, political office or entity to which remuneration or salary is paid, not including reimbursement of expenses;

c) not be in any way employed by or receive more than ten percent (10%) of his or her annual gross income, other than insurance or retirement income, directly or indirectly from a competing enterprise or business engaged in the generation, marketing or selling of electric energy.

3) while a Director and during the one (1) year immediately before the Nomination Date,

a) not receive more than ten percent (10%) of his or her annual gross income, other than insurance or Director compensation or retirement income, directly or indirectly from the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;

b) have a Close Relative that receives more than ten percent (10%) of his or her annual gross income, other than insurance or Director compensation or retirement income, directly or indirectly from the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;

c) not advance or have a Close Relative that advances the individual's pecuniary interest by Providing a good or service similar to a good or service Provided by the Cooperative or a Cooperative Subsidiary;

4) while a Director and during the five (5) years

immediately before the Nomination Date,

a) not be an employee of the Cooperative or an employee of an entity controlled by the Cooperative or in which the Cooperative owns a majority interest ("Cooperative Subsidiary");

b) not be an employee of another Cooperative or an employee of an entity controlled by another Cooperative or in which another Cooperative owns a majority interest ("Cooperative Subsidiary");

c) not be an employee of a company which sells goods or services to the Cooperative, another Cooperative or an entity controlled by the Cooperative or another Cooperative or in which the Cooperative or another Cooperative owns a majority interest ("Cooperative Subsidiary");

d) not be employed by or be a Close Relative of a person who is or has been employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative.

5) while a Director and during the seven (7) years immediately before the Nomination Date not have filed bankruptcy or been adjudicated to be bankrupt or be affiliated with any business enterprise that has filed bankruptcy or been adjudicated to be bankrupt.

D) Director Disqualification. After being elected, designated, or appointed, if a Director does not comply with all General Director Qualifications, Membership Director Qualifications, and Conflict of Interest Director Qualifications collectively, ("Director Qualifications"), then, except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, the Board may disqualify the Director ("Director Disqualification") and the individual is no longer a Director if:

1) the Board notifies the Director in writing of the basis for, and provides the Director an opportunity to comment regarding, the Board's proposed disqualification; and

2) within ten (10) days after the Board notifies the Director of the proposed disqualification, the Director neither complies with nor meets the Director Qualification. If a majority of Directors authorized by these Bylaws complies with the Director Qualifications and approves a Board action, then the failure of a Director to comply with the Director Qualifications does not affect the Board action.

Section 4.4 - Director Nominations. For each Director position, Members shall nominate individuals to serve as Director as provided in this Bylaw. Incumbent Directors may be nominated as provided in this Section 4.4. Other nominations for Director may be made by:

1) Nomination of the Members present at a district nominating committee meeting or

2) Submission of a Member petition.

A) District Nominations.

1) For purposes of determining if a Member is entitled to participate in a District Nominating Meeting (Nominating Members), the following rules shall apply:

a) A Member must not be suspended.

b) A Member may only participate in the District Nominating Meeting of one (1) District in any calendar year.

c) A Member must use a Cooperative service in the Director District for which the District Nominating meeting is being attended.

d) By participating in a District Nominating Meeting the Member forfeits the right to participate in another District Nominating Meeting.

e) If a husband and a wife hold a joint membership, only one (1) of them may vote.

Nominating Members may nominate individuals in accordance with the following procedures ("District Nominations"):

2) District Nominating Meeting. Not less than two hundred (200) days or more than two hundred and forty (240) days before each annual meeting, the Board of Directors shall convene a separate meeting of Nominating Members of each Director District for which directors are to be elected ("District Nominating Meeting"). The meeting shall be held at a suitable place to be designated by the Board of Directors for the purpose of nominating a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) individuals to serve as Director for each Director position for which nominations are solicited.

3) Notice of Nominating Meeting. The notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each member located in such district and shall indicate the Director District within which the Member Uses a Cooperative Service. The notice shall

state that nominations for individuals to serve as Director for that district will take place at the meeting. The meeting shall, however, be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting, and recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board of Directors for its consideration.

4) Nominating Meeting Quorum. Fifteen (15) Nominating Members entitled to vote in the Director District, shall constitute a quorum. If a quorum is not present no business may be officially conducted. In the event a quorum cannot be obtained for any one of the district nominating meetings provided for herein, then and in such event the director serving the directorate district in which a quorum cannot be obtained,

a) if otherwise eligible to succeed himself as Director, shall be declared the official nominee from that directorate district.

b) if ineligible or unwilling to succeed himself as Director, the Board of Directors shall appoint an official nominee from that directorate district.

The District Nominating Meeting shall be called to order by the Chairman which shall be one (1) of the Directors representing the Director District who is not standing for election, another individual designated as the representative of the Board of Directors, or in his absence, by any other Nominating Member entitled to vote within the Director District. The chairman shall appoint an individual to act as Secretary for the meeting. Members of other Director Districts present at the meeting may be heard but shall have no vote. If a Director from the district is willing to serve and continues to be eligible to serve, his or her name shall automatically be placed in nomination as a Director for that district. Other nominations for Director shall be made from the floor at the meeting. A Nominating Member shall have the right to nominate one and only one (1) individual to serve as Director. The chairman shall call for nominations for Director. The period to make nominations shall remain open for a reasonable amount of time but not less than one (1) minute. Nominees must be Members Using a Cooperative Service at a Location within a Director District and must possess the qualifications for to serve as a Director.

In order to vote at a District Nominating Meeting, an individual representing an Entity Member must present an authorization executed by either the owner or an officer of the Entity Member. Also, for District Nominating Meeting voting purposes, an individual representing one (1) or more Entity Members shall not be allowed to cast more than three (3) votes, regardless of the number of Entity Members he/she is authorized to represent.

The minutes of each District Nominating Meeting shall set forth, among other matters, the name of each individual nominated at the meeting and shall specify the Nominees of the Director District. A copy of the minutes, signed and certified by the Chairman and Secretary of the District Nominating Meeting, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative within ten (10) days after such District Nominating Meeting. No informality or defect in such minutes or in the proceedings shall void the nominations so made, or affect the validity of the election of the Nominees, or affect the validity of the election of Directors at a meeting of the Members of the Cooperative.

A Nominee is a member who has been nominated at a District Nominating Meeting but has not yet been certified by the Board Certification Committee.

B) Member Petition Nominations. In addition to District Nominations, Nominating Members may nominate, through petition, individuals to run for election for a Director position nominated by Nominating Members and scheduled for election by Members at the Member Meeting ("Member Petition Nominations").

For purposes of determining if a Member is entitled to execute a Member Petition (Nominating Members), the following rules shall apply:

1) A Member must not be suspended

2) A Member may only sign a petition for one (1) District in any calendar year.

3) Use a Cooperative service in the Director District for which a Member Petition is being signed.

4) By signing a Member Petition the Member forfeits the right to sign a subsequent Petition

5) If a husband and a wife hold a joint membership, only one (1) of them may sign the petition.

Nominating Members make Member Petition Nominations by delivering to the Cooperative at its corporate headquarters no later than 5:00 p.m. on the forty fifth (45th) day after the date of the District Nominating Meeting for which the nomination is made a writing for each Member Petition Nomination ("Member Petition"):

- 1) listing, on each page of the Member Petition, the name of the Member Petition Nominee;
- 2) indicating, on each page of the Member Petition, the Director position for which the Member Petition Nominee will run; and

- 3) containing the printed names, mailing addresses where the members receive the Cooperative's electric bill, and telephone numbers, and original dated signatures signed within forty-five (45) days of the District Nominating Meeting, of at least thirty (30) Nominating Members. A Nominee is a member who has submitted a Petition but has not yet been certified by the Board Certification Committee.

C) Certification Committee. The Cooperative's Certification Committee shall consist of the Cooperative's Board of Directors, exclusive of any director who is up for election. The Cooperative's Certification Committee shall:

- 1) determine the validity of all Member Petitions; and
- 2) determine if each individual nominated to serve as a Director, whether nominated at the District Nominating Meeting or by Member Petition, is qualified to serve as Director. The Certification Committee shall conduct its review not less than one hundred and fifty (150) days before a meeting of Members at which Directors are to be elected. If the Cooperative's Certification Committee fails to act within the time allowed, a petition shall be deemed to be valid.

- 3) Certify a Nominee as a Candidate, and
- 4) certify Candidates as elected without a Member election if a Candidate is unopposed by an:

- a) an incumbent Director or,
- b) a Candidate nominated at a District Nominating Meeting or,
- c) a Candidate nominated by a Member Petition.

D) Nominations from the Floor Prohibited. Members, including Nominating Members, may not nominate from the floor of a Member Meeting an individual to run for election to a Director position scheduled for election at the Member Meeting.

E) Notice of Director Nominations. At least ten (10) days before a Member Meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors, the Cooperative shall notify Members of the:

- 1) Director positions scheduled for election by Members;
- 2) names and corresponding Director positions of all District Nominations; and

- 3) names and corresponding Director positions of all Member Petition Nominations.

Section 4.5 - Director Elections. At each Member Meeting at which a Director is to be elected, the Members shall elect the Director from the Candidates approved by the Certification Committee. A Candidate shall become a Director if he or she receives the highest number of votes cast in the election by Members voting by Electronic or Mail Ballot ("Electing Members"). In the event of a tie, the incumbent Director shall be elected; provided, however, if neither of the candidates is an incumbent, the election shall be decided by a coin toss.

The Board may but is not required to allow voting by Members present at the meeting by voice vote or written ballot distributed at the meeting.

Section 4.6 - Director Terms. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, a Director's term is three (3) years or until a successor Director is elected, designated, or appointed ("Director Term"). A Director's term begins at the beginning of the first Board Meeting held after the Director is elected, designated, or appointed and consents to serve. A Director's term ends at the beginning of the first Board Meeting held after a successor Director is elected, designated, or appointed and consents to serve.

The Cooperative shall stagger Director Terms by dividing the total number of authorized Directors into groups of approximately equal number. Members must annually elect an approximately equal number of Directors.

Section 4.7 - Director Resignation. A Director may resign at any time. To resign, a Director must sign and deliver a written notice of resignation to the Board, President, or Secretary. Except as a later date is otherwise provided in a written notice of resignation, a Director's resignation is effective when the Board, President, or Secretary receives

the written notice of resignation. If a Director's resignation is effective at a later date, and if the successor Director does not take office until the effective date of the Director's resignation, then the pending Director vacancy may be filled before the effective date of the Director's resignation.

Section 4.8 - Director Removal. A) Removal by the Board. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the Board may remove a Director designated or appointed by the Board for any reason.

B) Removal by Members. As provided in this Bylaw, and for taking or omitting a negligent, fraudulent, or criminal act significantly and adversely affecting the Cooperative, the Members may remove a Director.

- 1) Director Removal Petition - For each Director for whom removal is requested, the Members seeking removal of a Director must deliver to the President or Secretary a dated written petition ("Director Removal Petition"):

- a) identifying the Director on each page;
- b) explaining, on each page, the basis for the Director's removal; and
- c) as Members existed on the Director Removal Petition date, containing the printed names, printed addresses, and original and dated signatures obtained within sixty (60) days following the Director Removal Petition date, of at least ten percent (10%) of the Members.

Within thirty (30) days after the President or Secretary receives a Director Removal Petition:

- a) the Cooperative shall forward a copy of the Director Removal Petition to the involved Director; and
- b) the Board shall meet to review the Director Removal Petition.

- 2) Member Meeting - If the Board determines that the Director Removal Petition complies with this Bylaw, then the Cooperative shall notice and hold a Member Meeting within sixty (60) days following the Board's determination. Notice of the Member Meeting must state that:

- a) a purpose of the Member Meeting is to consider removing a Director; b) statements may be presented, and a Member vote taken, regarding removing the Director; and
- c) Members may elect a successor Director.

If a Member Quorum is present in person at the Member Meeting, then for the Director named in a Director Removal Petition:

- a) before a Member vote, statements must be presented supporting the basis for removing the Director;
- b) the Director may be represented by legal counsel, and must have the opportunity to refute, and present statements opposing, the basis for removing the Director; and
- c) after the Director's presentation and Member discussion, the Members must vote whether to remove the Director.

If a majority of Members entitled to vote at the meeting vote to remove the Director, then the Director is removed effective the time and date of the Member vote. At the Member Meeting, the Members may elect a new Director to succeed the removed Director without complying with the Director Nomination or notice provisions of these Bylaws. A successor Director elected by the ("Removing Members") must comply with the Director Qualifications and serves the unexpired Director Term of the removed Director. A Director Removal Petition or Director removal does not affect a Board action.

Members may not remove a Director for lawfully opposing a Transfer of Cooperative Assets or a Cooperative dissolution. The Board may not remove a Director for lawfully opposing a Transfer of Cooperative Assets or a Cooperative dissolution.

Section 4.9 - Director Vacancy. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws:

- 1) by an affirmative vote of the majority of remaining Directors, the Board may fill a vacant Director position, or a Director position resulting from increasing the number of Directors;

- 2) a Director elected, designated, or appointed by the Board to fill a vacant Director position serves until the next regular election of Directors; and

- 3) a Director elected, designated, or appointed by the Board to fill a Director position resulting from increasing the number of Directors serves for a three (3) year term or such shorter term as the Board may determine. If a Director vacancy will occur at a later specified date, then the Board may fill the vacancy before the vacancy occurs and the new Director takes office when the vacancy occurs. An individual elected, designated, or appointed to fill a vacant Director position must comply with the Director

Qualifications. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, and as used in this Bylaw, "vacant Director position" and "Director vacancy" do not include Director positions vacated due to an expired Director Term.

Section 4.10 - Director Compensation. A Director is not an employee of the Cooperative. As determined or approved by the Board, the Cooperative may pay or reimburse Directors a fixed fee and expenses for attending a:

- 1) Board Meeting;
- 2) function, meeting, or event involving or relating to the Cooperative; or
- 3) function, meeting, or event involving, relating to, or reasonably enhancing the Director's ability to serve in, the role of Director. The Board must determine or approve the manner, method, and amount of any Director fee or expense.

Section 4.11 - Director Conduct. In general:

A) Director Standard of Conduct. A Director is not a trustee regarding the Cooperative or property held or administered by the Cooperative, including property potentially subject to restrictions imposed by the property's donor or transferor. A Director shall discharge the Director's duties, including duties as a Board Committee member:

- 1) in good faith;
- 2) in a manner the Director reasonably believes to be in the Cooperative's best interests;
- 3) when becoming informed in connection with the Director's decision-making function or devoting attention to the Director's oversight function, with the care that an individual in a like position would reasonably believe appropriate under similar circumstances; and
- 4) in a manner in which the Director discloses or causes to be disclosed to other Directors or Board Committee members information not known by them, but known by the Director to be material to discharging their decision-making or oversight functions, except that disclosure is not required to the extent that the Director reasonably believes that disclosure would violate a duty imposed under law, a legally enforceable obligation of confidentiality, or a professional ethics rule.

B) Director Reliance on Others. Unless a Director has knowledge making reliance unwarranted, then in discharging the Director's duties, including duties as a Board Committee member, the Director may rely:

- 1) on the performance by any of the following individuals listed in (a) or (c) to whom the Board has formally or informally delegated the authority or duty to perform one or more of the Board's delegable functions; and

- 2) upon information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, prepared or presented by any of the following individuals:

- a) one or more Cooperative Officers or employees whom the Director reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the functions performed or the information, opinions, reports, or statements provided;

- b) legal counsel, public accountants, or other individuals retained by the Cooperative regarding matters involving skills or expertise the Director reasonably believes are matters within the individual's professional or expert competence and as to which the individual merits confidence; and

- c) a Board Committee of which the Director is not a member if the Director reasonably believes the Board Committee merits confidence.

Section 4.12 - Close Relative. The term "Close Relative" means an individual who:

- 1) through blood, law, or marriage, is a spouse, child, stepchild, father, stepfather, mother, stepmother, brother, stepbrother, half-brother, sister, stepsister, half-sister, grandparent, grandchild, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law; or

- 2) resides in the same residence (collectively, "Close Relative").

An individual qualified and elected, designated, or appointed to a position does not become a Close Relative while serving in the position because of a marriage or legal action to which the individual was not a party.

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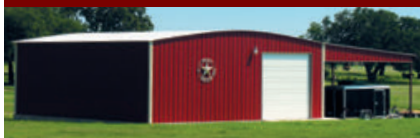


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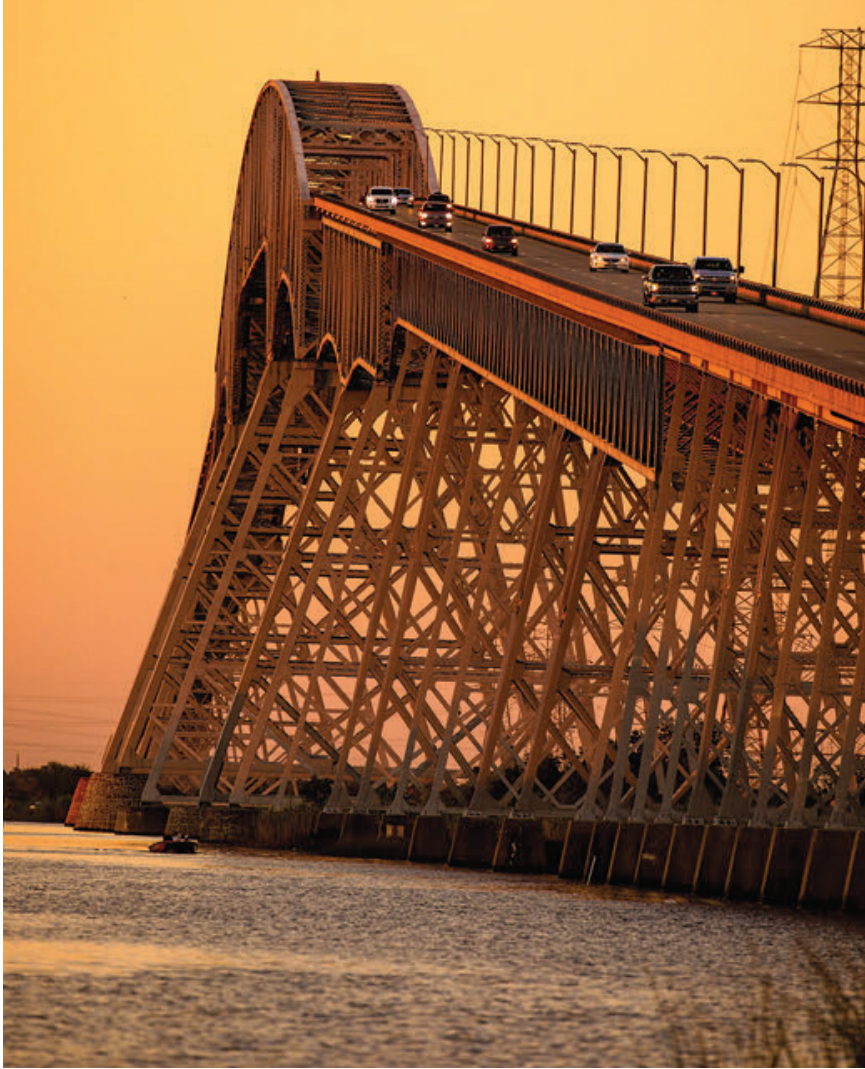
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The Scariest Bridge in Texas

The steep Rainbow Bridge connecting Port Arthur and Orange is a nightmare for some

BY W.F. STRONG • PHOTO BY ROBERT SEALE

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE Texas bridge that can be especially troubling for those with gephyrophobia—fear of crossing bridges. The U.S. 90 bridge over the Pecos River can certainly give you the willies. The Corpus Christi Harbor Bridge can give you pause if you're hit with the outer bands of a tropical storm when you're on it. Some of those five-stack interchanges in Dallas and Houston can cause a palpitation or two.

But, in my opinion, the scariest bridge in Texas is the Rainbow Bridge between Port Arthur and Orange, on Texas Highway 73. It offers a triple threat. You can

see it coming from a long way off. It has a steep ascent and descent. And it rises frighteningly high over water. These are the things gephyrophobics most dread.

The Rainbow Bridge is scary enough today, with two lanes for one-way traffic southbound, but it used to be much worse. It is 20 stories tall, and drivers had to put up with two narrow lanes carrying cars and loaded 18-wheelers in two directions. When it was completed in 1938, it was the second-tallest bridge in the U.S., second only to the Golden Gate Bridge. (The Veterans Memorial Bridge, built just yards away and completed in 1990, car-

ries one-way traffic northbound.)

As you arrived near the top of the Rainbow Bridge, all you could see was sky in the daytime and the stars at night. You had to have faith that the pavement would be there when you drove over the hump, and that was enough to make some folks take a 30-mile detour. Local driver's education teachers often made students navigate over that bridge on their first day of class.

Originally it was called the Port Arthur-Orange Bridge. I long believed that the Rainbow Bridge name came from Norse mythology, wherein the rainbow bridge connects heaven and earth. But no. In 1957 the North Port Arthur Lions Club had a naming contest, and 6-year-old Christy McClintock submitted the winning entry—Rainbow Bridge. She said it looked like a mechanical rainbow. You will agree if you are there near sunset and see it illuminated in the shimmering hues of the evening. McClintock earned a \$50 U.S. savings bond as her prize.

Why was the bridge, with 177 feet of vertical clearance, built so tall? It crossed an important ship channel and builders wanted the tallest ship in the Navy at the time, the USS Patoka, to be able to pass easily beneath it, pulling a dirigible.

The Rainbow Bridge was more than an engineering marvel. It was also a magnet for teenagers in the night. The high school kids in the area used to climb up into the catwalks. One of those students was destined for worldwide fame. It is said that she used to sit up there high above the moonlit waters of the Neches River and sing in her passionately raw style. I'm sure you've heard of her. Janis Joplin? Her biographer, Myra Friedman, said Joplin would sing up there under the great Texas sky and "scorch the stars." But that's a whole other story.

The tallest ship in the Navy never did pass beneath the Rainbow Bridge. Seems a shame. Somewhat like a bride having planned a perfect wedding, but the groom never showed. ■

Vegetarian

Creative blends of vegetables and seasonings make for hearty meals

BY MEGAN MYERS, FOOD EDITOR

My family is always looking for more ways to add vegetables to our meals, especially with two growing kids at the table. One way that works for us is to create make-it-yourself bowls that allow each of us to choose our own vegetable and sauce. My husband and I like this carrot-ginger dressing, which can be enjoyed with roasted veggies, as in this recipe, or with a simple salad.

Roasted Vegetable Farro Bowls With Carrot-Ginger Dressing

1 cup farro
1 head cauliflower, chopped
1½ cups diced butternut squash
1 head broccoli, chopped
½ cup plus 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided use
¾ cup chopped carrot
¼ cup diced onion
¼ cup rice vinegar
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cook farro according to package directions. Drain excess liquid if needed.
2. While the farro is cooking, spread cauliflower and squash onto a rimmed baking sheet and put broccoli into a bowl. Drizzle 2 tablespoons olive oil over the vegetables. Put baking sheet into oven and roast 10 minutes, then add broccoli and give the vegetables a stir. Roast for another 10 minutes, until vegetables are softened and starting to caramelize.
3. While vegetables are cooking, make the dressing. In a food processor or blender, combine ½ cup olive oil, carrot, onion, rice vinegar, ginger, salt and pepper and process until completely smooth. Taste dressing and adjust seasoning if needed.
4. Divide farro and vegetables among 4 bowls with dressing on the side.

SERVES 4

TCP WEB EXTRA Follow along with Megan Myers and her adventures in the kitchen at stetted.com, where she features a recipe for Roasted Carrot and Fennel Soup.





Instant Pot Greek Spanakorizo With Herbed Cashews

KATHERINE SUAREZ
COSERV

This Greek dish is a great way to get started using an Instant Pot.

COOK'S TIP To make this dish without an Instant Pot: In Step 3 increase the water to 3 cups and add it and the rest of the ingredients into a large saucepan. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer for 18 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes, then fluff with a fork before serving.

- 2 cups jasmine rice**
- 2 tablespoons plus 1 teaspoon olive oil, divided use**
- ¼ cup cashews**
- 2 teaspoons Greek seasoning, divided use**
- 2 tablespoons fresh dill, divided use**
- ½ medium yellow onion, sliced**
- 4 cloves garlic, minced**
- 2 cups water**
- 1 bag (12 ounces) frozen spinach, thawed and drained**
- Juice of 1 large lemon**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- Feta cheese crumbles, for garnish**

1. Rinse the rice until water runs clear, drain and set aside. Set a small sauté pan over medium heat. Add 1 teaspoon of olive oil and the cashews to the pan and toast until golden brown, stirring occasionally. Remove the pan from heat and stir in 1 teaspoon Greek seasoning and a pinch of dill. After removing cashews from the pan, give them a rough chop and set aside.
2. Set an Instant Pot to sauté and add 2 tablespoons olive oil and the sliced onion to the cooker's inner pot. Stir to coat onion and cook until softened, stirring

\$500 WINNER

Roasted Vegetable Enchiladas

NANCY DENNIS
BARTLETT EC



Who doesn't love enchiladas? This simple recipe features roasted vegetables for the filling and the sauce. If you have extra filling, use it to make more enchiladas or serve it as a side.

SERVES 4



- 3 red bell peppers, quartered, seeds and stems removed**
- 2 zucchini, cut into 1-inch chunks**
- 2 yellow squashes, cut into 1-inch chunks**
- ½ yellow onion, cut into 1-inch chunks**
- 1 jalapeño pepper, halved, seeds and stem removed**
- 2 cloves garlic, skin on**
- Olive oil, for drizzling**
- 8 ounces light sour cream**
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin**
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro, divided use**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- 6-7 corn tortillas, warmed**
- 1 cup queso fresco, crumbled**

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Spread the vegetables and garlic onto a baking sheet and drizzle with olive oil. Roast vegetables 25-35 minutes, until slightly browned. Stir every 10 minutes, checking on garlic and bell peppers, and removing garlic once soft and bell peppers once skin is browned and beginning to peel.
2. Place the bell peppers in a bowl and cover for 10 minutes. Set aside the rest of the vegetables. Once peppers are cool enough to handle, remove the skins from the peppers and the garlic.
3. Place the bell peppers, jalapeño, garlic, sour cream, cumin and 1 tablespoon cilantro in a food processor or blender and purée until smooth. Add salt and pepper.
4. Spread a large spoonful of the sauce in an 8-by-8-inch baking dish. Roll into each corn tortilla about ¼ cup of the roasted vegetables and a sprinkling of cheese and place carefully in the dish. Spread the remaining sauce over the top.
5. Bake enchiladas 20-25 minutes. Top with remaining cheese and cilantro and serve.

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

TOMATOES DUE JAN 10

What's more perfect for summer than tomatoes? No matter how you slice them, we want your best tomato recipe. Enter at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests by January 10.

CONTINUED >

RECIPES CONTINUED

occasionally. Add garlic and sauté for about 1 minute, being careful to not burn it.

3. Add the water, spinach, rice, rest of the dill and 1 teaspoon Greek seasoning into the Instant Pot. Stir, place the lid and set to high pressure for 1 minute, then let rest for 15 minutes to allow the pressure to release naturally. Release excess pressure if needed before removing lid. Stir in lemon juice and salt and pepper. Sprinkle the top of the spanakorizo with cashews and cheese before serving.

SERVES 8

Mujadara

SHANNON SKAALURE
TRI-COUNTY EC

Lentils are a great ingredient for meatless meals, and this staple Middle Eastern dish is an excellent option. Even though cooking the onions down takes time, the results are worth it. Serve topped with



yogurt or labneh—strained yogurt—if you like.

4 tablespoons olive oil
2 large onions, thinly sliced
Salt, to taste
4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1 teaspoon ground cumin
¼ teaspoon ground allspice
Pinch ground cayenne pepper
Large pinch dried thyme, oregano and/or rosemary
5 cups vegetable broth
1 cup green, brown or red lentils
¾ cup rice
1–2 tablespoons lemon juice
Pepper, to taste

Pinch red pepper flakes, for garnish
Chopped fresh herbs, for garnish

1. Heat olive oil in a large, deep skillet over medium heat, then add onions. Add a pinch of salt and sauté until the onions turn golden brown, 15–45 minutes, stirring often so they don't burn. Transfer half of the onions to a plate, leaving remaining half in the skillet.

2. Add garlic to skillet and sauté until fragrant, about 1 minute, then add cumin, allspice and cayenne and sauté a few seconds to toast the spices. Stir in herbs and broth, bring to a simmer, and add salt to taste.

3. Add in lentils, cover and simmer with lid cracked until lentils are almost done (25–30 minutes for green and brown lentils, 15–20 minutes for red). Stir rice into the pot and continue to cook until everything is tender, 15–20 minutes. Close lid completely if it looks too thick while cooking.

4. Add lemon juice and salt and pepper to taste. Top with reserved onions and garnishes.

SERVES 8

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On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Upscale Lodging

The Tarpon Inn embodies the historical vibe of Port A

BY CHET GARNER

TEXANS HAVE ALWAYS been good at telling fish stories, but the Tarpon Inn in Port Aransas can out-exaggerate even the saltiest fisherman. This beachy hotel has been giving Mustang Island visitors a place to rest their heads and share their stories since 1886.

I traveled to the coast to enjoy that golden time when the weather turns colder and “island time” slows to a standstill. After walking the quiet streets of Port Aransas, I found myself standing in front of the long, two-story building with its porch and balcony that run from end to end. Folks sat in red rocking chairs, soaking in the relaxed pace of life in Port A.

I expected the smile I received when I stepped into the small lobby, but I did not expect the lobby’s decor. Covering the walls from the base of the windows to the ceiling are more than 7,000 tarpon scales, each signed and dated by a proud angler. In the early 1900s, these colossal fish were so plentiful that Port Aransas was nicknamed “Tarpon, Texas.” When a guest caught one, they noted the catch’s size and weight on a scale removed from the fish, then signed and pinned the silver-tipped trophy to the lobby wall.

I scanned the walls and found that most of the anglers were from Texas. Some scales recorded fish that were well over 6 feet long, while others bragged that the fish was caught using only “light tackle.” I found one scale safely behind glass and inscribed with the name Franklin D. Roosevelt, who traveled to Port Aransas in 1937 while serving his second term as president. During this trip he reeled in a 5-foot-1-inch, 77-pound tarpon and added its scale to the wall.

I walked out eager to see if there were any tarpons swimming in the nearby Gulf. ■

ABOVE Chet points out the tarpon scale signed by President Roosevelt in 1937.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Chet’s video from the Tarpon Inn and check out his Explorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.

Know Before You Go

Some events may have been affected by COVID-19. Call or check an event’s website for scheduling details.

JANUARY

01

Austin [1-31] Fortlandia, (512) 232-0100, wildflower.org/event/fortlandia

09

Brenham Johnny Cash Tribute by Bennie Wheels, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com/events

12

Seguin Seguin Chamber Virtual Centennial Celebration, (830) 379-6382, seguinchamber.com

14

Amarillo [14-16, 21-24] Little Women, (806) 355-9991, amarillolittletheatre.org/current-season

15

San Angelo [15-16] Texas State Federation of Square & Round Dancers Nominating Meeting and Dance, (432) 685-3226, pbsrda.com

16

Brenham Uptown Swirl in Downtown Brenham, (979) 337-7580, downtownbrenham.com

17

Hallettsville State Championship Domino Tournament, (361) 798-2311, kchall.com

22

Amarillo [22-23] Beethoven’s Fifth & Project Trio, (806) 376-8782, amarillosymphony.org

28

New Braunfels Neal McCoy, (830) 627-0808, brauntex.org

30

Bandera Grace Lutheran Wild Game Dinner,
(830) 796-3091,
gracebandera.weebly.com/
wild-game-dinner-2021

Brenham Bob Wills' Texas Playboys Starring Jason Roberts, (979) 337-7240,
thebarnhillcenter.com/events

Nocona Mardi Gras Ball,
(940) 825-3526,
facebook.com/
mardigrasnoconastyle

FEBRUARY

02

Austin Samin Nosrat,
(512) 474-5664,
thelongcenter.org

03

Bandera [3-6] Cowboy Mardi Gras, (830) 796-4849,
11thstreetcowboybar.com



Pick of the Month

South Texas International Film Festival

Edinburg, January 22-31
(956) 383-6246
stxiff.com

The festival goes online this year. Visitors to stxiff.com can watch all film selections free and on-demand, access panels for insight from guests and directors, participate in workshops, and meet celebrities virtually. The festival will feature productions from the Rio Grande Valley and more than 20 countries.

TCP Submit Your Event

We pick events for the magazine directly from TexasCoopPower.com. Submit your event online for March by January 10, and it just might be featured in this calendar.

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Mens'						
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Black (101)						
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GRACE FULTZ



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

ANNA RUSSELL
CHEROKEE COUNTY EC
"This part of Colorado was once part of Texas."

SABINE BREDOW
PEDERNALES EC
Bald cypress trees covered in Spanish moss in the world's largest cypress forest—around Caddo Lake in deep East Texas.

MIKE PRESTIGIACOMO
BARTLETT EC
The forest *and* the trees.

TREY WATSON
DEEP EAST TEXAS EC
"Drone photo of my forested property in the East Texas summer."

Upcoming Contests

- DUE JAN 10** Historic Texas
- DUE FEB 10** Manmade vs. Nature
- DUE MAR 10** Night Life

Enter online and review submission rules at TexasCoopPower.com/Contests.

TCP WEB EXTRA See Focus on Texas on our website for more photos from readers.



Cook Like a Texan

Memorable readers' recipes now delight diners in Nevada

BY SUZANNE FEATHERSTON
ILLUSTRATION BY MITCH BLUNT

I MIGHT NOT LIVE IN TEXAS anymore, but sometimes I still cook like a Texan.

Thank you, *Texas Co-op Power* readers, for teaching me about Southern cooking. Through the monthly reader recipe section, I learned about flavors and techniques that will stay with me forever.

When I joined *Texas Co-op Power* in 2011, I was thrilled to find out that the editorial staff participated in recipe testing for the recipe contest.

Every month the food editor would send out selected submitted recipes, and the editorial staff would race to pick out the most appealing ones to prepare for a panel of co-workers. We did not have a professional test kitchen, but we were a realistic representation of Texas home cooks.

Contestants showed their culinary acumen with instructions as simple as melting Velveeta into almost anything to the more meticulous, such as stuffing upright rigatoni noodles for Butternut Squash and Gorgonzola Rigatoni Pasta Pie With Fried Sage (July 2016).

Sometimes if I was late in choosing, I'd wind up preparing a more technical or time-consuming recipe, like the Red Velvet Cupcake in a Jar (November 2012) that took me three hours to make. At other times recipes picked me, like the Blueberry-Lime Jam (June 2012) because I owned a hot-water bath canner.

For the Chili Cook-Off contest of 2013, Jenny Sparks of Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative shared a recipe for Venison Chili that uses ground venison, chipotle peppers and hot chocolate mix. Being the only staff member with venison in my freezer at the time, I lucked out with that one. Not only did it win the contest, but it also became a favorite in my recipe repertoire. I make it mostly for company, often using beef instead of venison and adding beans (controversial, I know) to make it stretch. People love the sweet and smoky flavors, and I love telling them about *Texas Co-op Power*.

Several other Texas recipes and concepts made their way into my cooking routine, thanks to the magazine. Sweet and Savory Sprouts (March 2017) with pancetta or bacon and maple syrup, it turns out, is good hot or cold. Aunt Sharn's Saag (July 2011) is a yummy way to use an overabundance of greens such as spinach from the garden, and it freezes well.

The experience also exposed me to using nontraditional ingredients in pesto, such as beans as in the Cannellini Pesto Pasta Sauce (March 2012) and pecans instead of pine nuts as in Texas Pecan Pesto (March 2012).

These and many other *Texas Co-op Power* recipes are now folded into my binder, so I can continue to cook like a Texan. ■



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